

## **Malmesbury Town Council**

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 7.00pm.

---

**PRESENT:** His Worship the Mayor, Councillor A J Gundry  
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor S J Poole.  
Councillors: F E Caton, S Cox, C C Doody, J E Exton, A Kettley,  
S J Killane, V L Penfold, K Power, R F Sanderson,  
S J Shape and A C R Woodcock

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors W G Blake and R Budgen with prior engagements and M H Snell due to illness.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Two members of the public and one member of the press.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Councillor Cox enquired about a previous decision to project the agendas for meetings on the screen in the Malting Hall. The Town Clerk advised that the issue had been discussed at a previous meeting but the decision had been not to do so other than at meetings of Planning and Environmental Issues Committee. A member of the public enquired about where the agendas would normally be published and was informed that in normal circumstances they are displayed on the notice boards and move to a new website would not replace the current procedure.

### **85. CLOSURE OF BRISTOL STREET**

The Mayor introduced Adrian Weissenbruch, a Senior Technical Officer from Wiltshire Council who addressed the meeting on the subject of the proposed temporary closure of Bristol Street and suggested diversions for traffic.

Mr Weissenbruch advised the Council that the proposed works to be undertaken by Wessex Water would involve closure of Bristol Street between Bremilham Road and West Street for a period of three weeks. The proposed diversion routes involve travel to Acton Turville although it is anticipated that local traffic will use smaller local roads to gain access. The proposed time period had slipped to commence at the Easter holidays to avoid disruption will local school runs.

Councillor Poole advised Mr Weissenbruch that such a major closure should not be undertaken during the holiday period in view of the economic impact upon the town. Councillor Killane welcomed the new proactive approach whereby local councils are being involved with closures in advance. He expressed concern that local HGV's would use Corn Gastons and hoped that the police would ensure appropriate enforcement action is taken.

Mr Weissenbruch answered several other detailed questions concerning consultation with local residents and assured the Council that a full inclusive approach was being undertaken by the Communications Team at Wiltshire Council and Wessex Water. He invited the Council to comment upon the preferred diversion route. The options would be considered at the next meeting.

**86. TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013, as circulated, be received and adopted.

Councillor Caton demanded an explanation why the cheque for a Community Grant had not been received by the Kite Festival. Councillor Doody advised that she had signed the cheque last week..The Town Clerk confirmed that it had been posted and advised her to contact the office if it had not arrived by 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

Councillor Cox advised the Council that if councillors were having difficulty in delivering heir newsletters he would arrange delivery for a fee to be given to Oxfam.

**87. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environmental Issues Committee held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 be received and noted.

Councillor Killane informed the Council that Tracy Rouse, the contact officer with Wiltshire Council, would in future be more involved with the Area Board.  
Min 10 – River Avon – Councillor Gundry advised that he had visited the River Avon at the Flying Monk and was in contact with the Area Board to see if a contractor could be employed to undertake the clearance with the cost being divided between the various land owners.

**88. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN PROMOTION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013.**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Promotion and Tourism Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 be received and noted.

Councillor Cox informed the Council that the tickets to Womad had increased in price by 30% and it was RESOLVED that the Mayor would write to the organisers expressing concern.

**89. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013.**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Hall Management Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 be received and noted.

The Town Clerk advised that the committee had requested that the new charges for the hire of the Town Hall be introduced as from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and not the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. The Council considered the impact upon the current budget and RESOLVED to introduce the new charges from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

**90. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013.**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013 be received and noted.

**91. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION – RIVER VALLEYS TRUST**

An application for a community grant had been received from the River Valleys Trust and circulated to all councillors. It was proposed by Councillor Cox, second by Councillor Woodcock and RESOLVED that a grant of £500 be approved for the purposes indicated in the application.

**92. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION – BOBBY VAN TRUST**

An application for a community grant had been received from the Bobby Van Trust and circulated to all councillors. It was proposed by Councillor Cox, second by Councillor Woodcock and RESOLVED that a grant of £400 be approved for the purposes indicated in the application.

**93. TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2014/15**

The Town Council received a report presented by the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee simplifying the manner in which the proposed budget for 2014/2015 was presented. The report included reference to a number of key projects to be considered during the year ahead.

It was proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Penfold that the proposal contained within the report be accepted. It was RESOLVED that the level of estimated expenditure by the Town Council for 2014/15 would be **£447,237** to include a figure of £22,500 for special key projects. The anticipated income for the year was agreed at **£80,175**. Wiltshire Council had previously confirmed payment of a reduced equalisation grant of £22,017.50 leaving a balance of **£345,044.50** to be funded from council tax, supported by use of reserves. The Town Council agreed not to increase the level of Council Tax for 2014/15 but to retain it at the same level as the current year, producing an income of £322,492. It was therefore RESOLVED that the balance of expenditure over income of **£22,552** would be taken from reserves.

Councillor Killane advised that the impact on local councils of the recent change in legislation relating to benefits was going to be significant in the years to come. Even with prudent housekeeping and use of reserves future tax rises would be an inevitable outcome together with the Council being steered towards a dependence upon Community Infrastructure Levy from developers in order to deliver key improvements and projects.

**94. FLYING MONK PLAYING FIELD – FIELDS IN TRUST**

The Town Council received a report which had previously been considered by the Policy and Resources Committee, recommending that the registration of the field be agreed. It was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Poole and RESOLVED that the registration documents be forwarded to Fields in Trust to continue with the registration of the field as a QE II Challenge Field.

**95. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Killane informed the Council that the documents had been submitted to Wiltshire Council for examination by independent spatial planners. Two task groups had been formed to look in greater detail at specified sites.

**The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.**